



**Pacific Northwest Region
Malheur National Forest**
541-575-3000
www.fs.usda.gov/malheur

News Release

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Prescribed Burns Continue on Malheur National Forest

John Day, Oregon- Prescribed burning will continue on the 18 Road corridor today, creating noticeable smoke.

Prescribed burns have begun on the 18 road corridor on Blue Mountain Ranger District. Crews will move on to the Crawford Unit as early as Wednesday, October 8th, followed by ignition on the Balance unit along the Middle Fork as early as Thursday October 9th. Blue Mountain Fire is working in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy on this project.

Prairie City Ranger District will begin ignition on the Pine Creek and Knox units as early as Thursday October 9th. The Pine Creek unit is in the vicinity of Little Indian Creek, and the Knox units are in the Southeast corner of the district east of the 16 Road. Please note that prescribed burns are weather dependent and the exact dates may vary.

Forest users should drive with caution; expecting intermittent smoke along roads and heavy traffic from fire crews in the burn unit vicinity. Signs will be posted alerting visitors about the upcoming burns and forest visitors can expect to see engines and fire crews monitoring these fires until they are declared "out."

Prescribed fires are an integral part of land management across the Malheur National Forest. Each of these burns represents many hours of planning and preparation. Prescribed burns are designed to both reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires as well to restore overall health of the National Forest System lands. Burning may have some short-term impacts on air quality levels, but any burning activity will be accomplished during weather conditions that should minimize impacts of smoke on local communities. For more information on Oregon's smoke management laws, please visit their web page: http://www.oregon.gov/odf/pages/fire/smp/smokemgt_onthe_web.asp.

Burns will also be timed to minimize impacts on hunters. Extreme care is being taken to ensure sensitive plant, wildlife; aquatic organisms and water quality are protected during burning operations.

For further information, contact officials at 541-575-3000. To report a wildfire, call the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center at 1-541-575-1321.



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